

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 /158 R

DRAFTED BY TASK FORCE:JEBRIGGS:DP  
APPROVED BY TASK FORCE:FMDICKMAN  
S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)  
IO/P - MR. BLACHLEY  
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL  
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)  
NEA/EGY - MR. STERNER  
EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE  
S/S-O:PPSARROS

----- 098939

R 132253Z OCT 73  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
USINT CAIRO  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USINT ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
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USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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KUWAIT PASS DOHA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL  
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING  
OCTOBER 13, 1973:

QUOTE: AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY: TODAY, THE SECRETARY GAVE  
BREAKFAST TO SENATOR FULBRIGHT AT ABOUT 8 O'CLOCK. HE  
THEN HAD A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN IN HIS  
OFFICE THAT LASTED ABOUT 40 MINUTES. THEN AT ABOUT 10,  
JUST BEFORE 10:30, HE WAS CALLED TO THE WHITE HOUSE, HAD  
A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, THEN ATTENDED, CHAIRED A  
WSAG MEETING.

THIS AFTERNOON, HE HAS MEETINGS SCHEDULED WITH THE FOREIGN  
MINISTER OF ROMANIA. WE EXPECT THAT AT ABOUT 3 P.M., AND  
A MEETING ALSO WITH HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR., WHO -- LET ME  
SAY THIS ON BACKGROUND -- I THINK IS BEST DESCRIBED AS  
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO. HE WAS THE FOREIGN MINISTER  
OF TUNISIA FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAS OCCUPIED A GOOD DEAL OF MY TIME  
THIS MORNING HAS BEEN MOST DISTURBING TO US -- IT IS THAT  
WE ARE CONTINUING TO GET, AND TO READ, FALSE REPORTS OF  
AMERICAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, REMINIS-  
CENT OF THE SO-CALLED "BIG LIE" TECHNIQUE THAT WAS EMPLOYED  
DURING THE CONFLICT IN 1967, BEARING DIRECTLY ON THE  
UNITED STATES.

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I WISH I COULD AVOID THE BUSINESS OF DENYING EACH OF THESE,  
WHAT I'D HAVE TO SAY ARE MISCHIEVOUS AND GROUNDLESS  
REPORTS AS THEY COME ALONG.

LET ME SAY THAT THERE IS NO TRUTH WHATSOEVER TO, I GUESS,  
PARTICULARLY TWO STORIES THIS MORNING. ONE, THAT A U.S.  
AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT WAS INVOLVED IN THE HOSTILITIES IN  
SYRIA; AND A SECOND THAT A PHANTOM JET BEARING "USAF",  
U.S. AIR FORCE MARKINGS, PILOTED BY AN AMERICAN, WAS SHOT  
DOWN FRIDAY OVER DAMASCUS, AND ADD, LASTLY, THAT THERE IS  
NO AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIGHTING BY U.S. MILITARY  
FORCES OR PERSONNEL.

AND WHAT IS, I SUPPOSE, MOST DISTURBING TO US IS THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE EMANATING FROM ARAB QUARTERS WHERE GOVERNMENTS THERE HAVE ASKED THE UNITED STATES ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO BE AS HELPFUL AS WE CAN IN AN EFFORT TO START, OR HAVE STARTED, A NEGOTIATION AMONG THE PARTIES, ASKING THAT AT THE SAME TIME THAT THEY ARE VILIFYING US BY THE NATURE OF THESE REPORTS.

Q: THE REPORTS CURRENT TODAY ON SOME OF THE WIRES ARE THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS RECEIVED A MESSAGE OR A CONVERSATION FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO SEND AMBASSADOR AKINS THERE. SECOND POINT, THAT THREATENING A SEVERANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IF OUR ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL CONTINUES; AND, THIRDLY, A THREAT OF CUTTING OFF OIL EXPORTS YET AGAIN. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A: WELL, ON THE FIRST POINT YOU RAISE, I HAD NOT SEEN THAT REPORTED WITH RESPECT TO AMBASSADOR AKINS. I'LL HAVE TO LOOK INTO THAT. I KNOW OF NO BASIS FOR THAT.

ON THE SECOND TWO POINTS, THAT THEY HAVE THREATENED TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, I KNOW OF NO BASIS FOR THAT. THIS HAS NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED TO US.

AND, ON YOUR THIRD POINT, THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED A THREAT THAT OIL WILL BE CUT OFF FROM SAUDI ARABIA, THAT, AGAIN, IS NOT CORRECT. THAT HAS NOT BEEN COMMUNICATED TO US.  
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Q: COMING BACK TO THE SAUDI ARABIAN MESSAGE, HAS THERE BEEN A RESPONSE, OR HAS THERE BEEN ANY MESSAGE FROM KING FAISAL TO EITHER DR. KISSINGER OR TO THE PRESIDENT SINCE THE ONE THAT WAS SENT LAST SUNDAY?

A: YES, THERE HAS BEEN A MESSAGE FROM THE KING, AND IT WAS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT. NOW, I'LL HAVE TO BEG OFF ANY DISCUSSION OF THE CONTENTS FOR THE REASON YOU UNDERSTAND. BUT I HAVE ALREADY ANSWERED A QUESTION WHICH, BY THE NEWS REPORT, WAS RELATED TO THE LETTER BY SAYING THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THREAT TO BREAK OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

NOW, BEYOND THAT, I CAN'T DISCUSS THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER.

INDEED, LET ME ADD THIS ONE POINT, THAT YESTERDAY, THE SECRETARY MET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF SAUDI ARABIA. I THINK YOU SAW THAT ON OUR PUBLISHED SCHEDULE. AND I KNOW ABOUT THAT MEETING, AND THAT REINFORCES MY RESPONSE THAT THERE WAS NO THREAT TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC

RELATIONS.

Q: BOB, I APPRECIATE YOU COULD NOT TELL US ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE MESSAGE, BUT COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT THE TONE AND THE GENERAL ATTITUDE THAT ONE GATHERS FROM THE MESSAGE?

A: WELL, IT WAS NOT THREATENING IN THE WAY THAT PUBLIC REPORTS HAVE INTERPRETED IT.

Q: YOU SAID EARLIER THAT SOME ARAB GOVERNMENTS HAD ASKED THE UNITED STATES ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO START NEGOTIATIONS. MAY WE INTERPRET THIS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MESSAGES FROM ARAB GOVERNMENTS IN RECENT DAYS SAYING THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD START?

A: NO, AND IT IS PERHAPS JUST AS WELL YOU RAISED THAT QUESTION, BECAUSE I DIDN'T INTEND THAT TO BE THE EXTRA-POLATION OF WHAT I SAID. BUT MY REFERENCE IS BACK TO THE CONVERSATIONS THAT THE SECRETARY HELD IN NEW YORK WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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THE FOREIGN MINISTERS.

Q: COULD I FOLLOW ON THAT? HAVE THERE BEEN ANY INDICATIONS FROM ANY PARTY INVOLVED, OR INDIRECTLY INVOLVED, TO THIS GOVERNMENT OF A HINT OF A DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES; THAT IS, SINCE LAST SATURDAY?

A: THAT'S A LITTLE TOUGH TO ANSWER WITH COMPLETE CONFIDENCE. THE ONLY WAY THAT I CAN RESPOND TO THAT QUESTION IS TO REPEAT SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WE HAVE BEEN SAYING HERE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL; THAT IS, THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CONSENSUS DEVELOPING AROUND A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD CALL FOR THE END OF THE FIGHTING, OR INDEED ANYTHING BEYOND THAT. THERE IS NO MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR TODAY THAT I AM AWARE OF. AND I HONESTLY THINK THAT IS THE BEST I CAN DO WITH THAT QUESTION CONFIDENTLY.

Q: IS THERE ANY PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARDS THAT GOAL?

A: WELL, HOPEFULLY, INCH-BY-INCH, WE'LL MAKE SOME PROGRESS. HAVING SAID WHAT I JUST SAID, THOUGH, ABOUT A RESOLUTION, I CERTAINLY COULDN'T FORECAST BEYOND THAT. THE CONSULTATIONS ARE CONTINUING. THE SECRETARY, BOTH LATE YESTERDAY AND IN THE EARLY EVENING, WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR SCALI IN NEW YORK IS CARRYING HIS DELIBERATIONS WITH THE PARTIES ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WE STILL HOPE -- BUT I COULDN'T EXPRESS IT ANY STRONGER THAN THAT, THAT A MEANS WILL BE

FOUND TO BRING THE FIGHTING TO AN END.

Q: BOB, IS IT THAT THE MEANS MIGHT BE FOUND MORE WITHIN THE BILATERAL CHANNELS THAN SPECIFICALLY WITHIN THE U.N. CHANNEL?

A: LET ME SAY ON BACKGROUND, I'D BE INCLINED, IN THAT REGARD, YES, THAT I THINK THAT THE BILATERAL CONTACTS ARE THE BEST HOPE OF RALLYING A CONSENSUS ON POSITIONS THAT COULD BE TAKEN THEN IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

I PUT SOME EMPHASIS ON THE BILATERAL CONTACTS  
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BEING DEVELOPED IN WASHINGTON, BUT I'D HAVE TO SAY THAT THOSE BEING DONE IN NEW YORK ARE OBVIOUSLY COMPLEMENTARY.

Q: BOB, JORDAN HAS STATED THAT IT HAS SENT TROOP UNITS TO SOUTHEASTERN SYRIA TO A PLACE CALLED JDEIDAH. THEY CONFIRMED THAT HERE. THE WIRES SAY JORDAN HAS NOW ENTERED THE WAR. DOES THE UNITED STATES CONSIDER THAT JORDAN HAS ENTERED THE WAR, OR THAT PERHAPS IT HAS SENT ONLY TOKEN FORCES TO AN OUT-OF-THE-WAY PLACE WHERE THEY CAN'T GET INTO ANY TROUBLE?

A: I'M NOT SURE THAT I COULD RESPOND DIRECTLY TO THE REFINEMENT OF YOUR QUESTION; THAT IS TO SAY THAT WE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES' FORCES THAT HAVE BEEN DECLARED COMMITTED TO THE FIGHTING ARE AT ANY GIVEN TIME. BUT DECLARING THEIR COMMITMENT, OBVIOUSLY, IS OF SOME SERIOUS REGRET THAT CAN SERVE TO ENLARGE AND PROLONG THE WAR AT A VERY TIME WHEN WE AND OTHERS ARE EXERTING EVERY DIPLOMATIC EFFORT TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THE FIGHTING.

Q: TO FOLLOW THAT UP, YESTERDAY THE SECRETARY SPOKE ABOUT AN ONGOING MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL, WHICH HE SAID WOULD CONTINUE. THE UNITED STATES ALSO HAS AN ONGOING MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH JORDAN. DOES THAT CONTINUE?

A: I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT GENERAL SUBJECT, BEYOND THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS YESTERDAY.

Q: BOB, DID JORDAN CONSULT WITH THE UNITED STATES ABOUT COMMITTING ITSELF TO THE SYRIAN SIDE OF THE FIGHTING?

A: FOR BACKGROUND, WE HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF COMMUNICATIONS BACK AND FORTH WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN OVER THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS. THAT'S ALL I'M PREPARED TO SAY ABOUT IT.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU KNEW THAT THE JORDANIANS WERE GOING TO COMMIT SOME OF THEIR FORCES?

A: I BETTER STAND ON WHAT I'VE SAID -- THAT WE HAVE HAD A  
NUMBER OF COMMUNICATIONS OVER THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS WITH  
THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN, AND I CAN'T GO BEYOND IT AT THIS  
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POINT.

Q: WHEN YOU STARTED TALKING ABOUT THE BILATERAL HOLDING  
THE BEST HOPE, OR WORDS TO THAT EFFECT, DID YOU MEAN TO  
INDICATE THAT THERE WAS PROGRESS MADE IN THE BILATERAL  
CONTACTS, THAT HADN'T BEEN MADE YET IN THE --

A: WELL I RATHER STAMMERED MY WAY THROUGH THAT RESPONSE,  
I ACKNOWLEDGE, AND I SUPPOSE A WORD OF EXPLANATION IS  
REQUIRED -- BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING UNIQUE ABOUT A CHAIN  
OF BILATERAL CONTACTS AND COMMUNICATIONS GOING ON WHILE  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS SEIZED OF A SUBJECT?

THE FACT THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL DOESN'T SIT EVERY HOUR  
OF THE DAY WHILE IT'S SEIZED OF THE SUBJECT REALLY MEANS  
THAT BEHIND THE SCENES, YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF BILATERAL  
ACTIVITY GOING ON.

SO WHEN I SAID, "THE BEST HOPE", IT MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE  
UNFAIR TO PUT IT THAT WAY BECAUSE THAT'S SUCH A NATURAL  
PARALLEL ACTIVITY TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL BEING SEIZED  
OF A SUBJECT.

I SAID I THOUGHT IT WAS FAIR TO SAY WE WERE INCHING, OR  
GOING INCH BY INCH, AND HOPE THAT WE CAN MAKE SOME  
PROGRESS IN THE BILATERAL CONTACTS, SO THAT THE SECURITY  
COUNCIL CAN ARRIVE AT SOME RESOLUTION.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW INFORMATION ON THE RATE OF SOVIET  
ARMS SHIPMENTS TO THE ARABS?

A: THE AIRLIFT IS CONTINUING AT WHAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE A  
FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL RATE. IF THAT PERSISTS, IT COULD  
HAVE THE EFFECT OF CREATING SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES. THIS  
WAS INDICATED BY THE SECRETARY IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE  
YESTERDAY.

Q: I WANT TO GET BACK TO THE REPORTS THIS MORNING OF THE  
PHANTOMS, OR OTHER U.S. PLANES INVOLVED. YOU REFERRED  
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SPECIFICALLY TO TWO STORIES RELATING TO AIR FORCE PLANES,

AND YOU AGAIN SAID SPECIFICALLY, NO AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT  
IN THE FIGHTING.

A: NO AMERICAN "MILITARY" INVOLVEMENT.

Q: NO AMERICAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT.  
WELL WOULD YOU HAVE MADE THAT STATEMENT WITHOUT ASSURANCES  
FROM THE PENTAGON THAT THERE WERE NO RECONNAISSANCE  
AIRCRAFT INVOLVED? PARTICULARLY NAVAL AIRCRAFT OF THE  
SIXTH FLEET?

A: I HAVE CHECKED THIS AS THOROUGHLY AS IT'S HUMANLY  
POSSIBLE TO DO THIS MORNING, AND I THINK I WILL STAND ON  
WHAT I HAVE SAID.

Q: IN CONNECTION WITH THE AIRLIFT, THEY APPEAR TO BE USING  
YUGOSLAVIA AS A ROUTE. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE DISCUS-  
SIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND YUGOSLAVIA, IF ANY,  
ABOUT THIS USE OF AIR SPACE FOR THE TRANSIT OF RESUPPLY.

A: I'M AFRAID I COULDN'T DISCUSS ANYTHING OF THAT NATURE  
IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE, AND YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE  
THAT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

Q: ON THAT SYRIAN COMPLAINT ABOUT THE PHANTOM -- I THINK  
ANOTHER PART OF THAT COMPLAINT WAS THAT THEY SAID THEY  
HAD CAPTURED AN AMERICAN PILOT.

DO WE HAVE ANY INFORMATION, ANY INDICATIONS, ANY REASON  
TO BELIEVE THAT THERE MAY BE AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS FLYING  
FOR THE ISRAELIS?

A: LET ME GO ON BACKGROUND HERE:

THIS IS WHY, AGAIN, I CAREFULLY CHOSE MY WORDS ABOUT  
"AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES OR PERSONNEL."

Q: THAT'S WHY I ASKED.

A. THERE IS A SITUATION WHERE PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT NATION-  
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ALITIES MIGHT VOLUNTEER TO SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF  
ANOTHER GOVERNMENT.

LAST NIGHT, OR THE NIGHT BEFORE, I SAW A YOUNG LAD BEING  
INTERVIEWED IN ISRAEL, WHO SAID THAT HE HAD JUST GONE  
OVER FROM BRITAIN, AND WAS HANDED A UNIFORM.

NOW AS AN OFFICIAL POSITION, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DISCOUR-  
AGES THIS KIND OF THING.

BUT I WOULD HAVE TO POINT OUT THAT IT LEGALLY DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ACT BY WHICH YOU LOSE YOUR AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP. THAT, I THINK HAS BEEN TESTED IN THE COURT.

A: ANOTHER NATION, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, WOULD BE PREVENTED FROM RECURITING IN A SECOND COUNTRY. THAT COULD TURN OUT TO CARRY A CRIMINAL PENALTY, I SUPPOSE, AND COULD BE ILLEGAL.

BUT THERE IS NOTHING ILLEGAL ABOUT AN AMERICAN VOLUNTEERING TO SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

Q: DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAVE A FORMULA IN MIND BY WHICH IT CAN SEE THE END OF THIS WAR?

A: I WOULD HAVE TO HONESTLY SAY, MARVIN, THAT WE HAVE CONSIDERED --

WELL, LET ME BEGIN BY SAYING THAT EARLY ON, AFTER THE FIGHTING STARTED, WE OUTLINED WHAT WE CALLED OUR "PREFERRED COURSE." WE SAID SUBSEQUENTLY, THAT WE ARE OPEN TO THE SUGGESTIONS, IDEAS AND PROPOSALS OF OTHERS.

IN THE PROCESS, OTHER POSSIBILITIES, OF COURSE, HAVE OCCURRED TO US.

THERE IS STILL NO CONSENSUS, AS OF THIS MORNING, AMONG THE PARTIES TO THE FIGHTING, OR THE OTHER PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, ON A SINGLE PROPOSITION -- DRAFT RESOLUTION -- AND I THINK IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO STATE PUBLICLY, AT THIS TIME, A SINGLE PROPOSAL FROM WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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WE WOULD NOT BE MOVED AFTER HAVING SAID THAT WE ARE OPEN TO THE SUGGESTIONS OF OTHERS.

Q: AND HAVE OTHERS COME IN WITH SUGGESTIONS?

A: OTHERS HAVE MADE SUGGESTIONS, YES.

Q: DO YOU EXPECT THAT THE SECRETARY WILL HAVE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ZAYYAT, FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH MR. EBAN?

A: THAT COULD HAPPEN. IT'S NOT SCHEDULED. HE HAS TALKED TO MINISTER ZAYYAT ON THE TELEPHONE A COUPLE OF TIMES DURING THE WEEK.

Q: THE LETTER FROM FAISAL WAS HANDED OVER BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER YESTERDAY?

A: YES.



(THE PROCEEDINGS WERE TERMINATED AT 2:00 O'CLOCK.) KISSINGER  
<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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KUWAIT  
MANAMA  
TEHRAN  
TEL AVIV  
ALGIERS  
TRIPOLI  
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